PRESIDENT.

Wherever possible, the amount due will be refunded then and there.

The question for the grant of an additional allotment of Rs. 100 under Demand XI—Registration—Refunds was put to votes, and the allotment was made.

Demand XI—Medical.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Sir, I beg to move for the grant of an additional allotment of Rs. 180 under the head "Hospitals"—Demand XI—Medical —and Rs. 140 under "Servants" The necessity for making this appeal for an additional grant is due to the opening of the new Ophthalmic Hospital and the new Operation Theatre. The new building for the Ophthalmic Hospital is a block of 2 walls with three or four small verandah rooms, one of which is for males and the other for females. It is situated at about a hundred yards away from the main building, and servants are necessary to look after the patients, to watch over them and to meet their necessities. Operation cases will arise. Several of the patients have no relations staying with them, and they cannot be looked after without servants. A nurse and an attendant for the Ophthalmic block is absolutely necessary.

PRESIDENT.

When we examined the matter in the Finance Committee, it was said that there was some mistake noticed in regard to the figures. What is the pay for the nurse?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Rupees twenty.

PRESIDENT.

In calculating the amount, you have taken the pay for 9 months, i. e., from 1st Vrischigam. Strictly speaking, the Karkadagam pay should not be taken into account.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Then it will be Rs. 160.

PRESIDENT.

You find a similar mistake under the other head also. So you have to reduce it by Rs. 40, i. e., 180 to be reduced to Rs. 160 and Rs. 140 to Rs. 120. The necessary correction might be made. The real figures will be Rs. 160 and 120, respectively.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

These servants were not appointed on the 1st of Vrischigam, and so the amount was reduced to Rs. 100, if I remember right.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

PRESIDENT.

These servants have not been entertained so that, supposing that the Council sanctions the grant, you will have to entertain only from the 1st of Kumbham. So you want Rs. 100, i. e., only for 5 months. The total demand thus comes to Rs. 260.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Yes. The other additional servant is for the new Operation Theatre. The old one is very dilapidated, and the new one consists of 4 additional rooms. We want another servant for the old theatre, because that is also in operation for anti-septic cases. Very often, when work is going on, considerable trouble and difficulty is experienced. As a matter of fact, on account of the delay in obtaining sanction, I have drafted a nurse from the nursing staff to look after the patients.

PRESIDENT.

One point requires clearing, because we have doubts about it. Is it because the work has to be separately attended to in both the theatres that you want separate servants or is it because one servant cannot attend to both kinds of work?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Septic cases are attended to in the new Operation Theatre and anti-septic ones in the old. One servant cannot attend to both the anti-septic and septic cases.

PRESIDENT.

There is the fact that you have got 2 theatres here. In other hospitals one servant manages both anti-septic and septic cases. It is all done in the same place. Is there any intrinsic objection in one and the same servant attending to septic as well as anti-septic cases? Supposing in one building both the things are going on at separate times—septic cases at one time and anti-septic at another time, and supposing you have got only one servant, can he not attend to both these functions at separate times?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

That can be done at separate times. With one servant, in other hospitals this is done. In order to produce excellent results 2 men are needed.

PRESIDENT.

You want an additional attendant because there is another place to be looked after.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

That item is not mentioned in the statement placed before the Council. Only 2 items are mentioned, the grant for an

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

additional allotment of 180 rupees under "Hospitals-Nurses" and Rs. 120 under "Servants". Nothing is mentioned about the Ophthalmic Hospital..

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

One we find is for the Ophthalmic Hospital and one for the Operation Theatre, Rs. 10 each for 5 months.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

We had an Ophthalmic Hospital before.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

It is an addition to the original Dispensary. We have attached a wall.

PRESIDENT.

This is another block of building.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

This is only an addition.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

This is a Hospital.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

There is one servant for the old Dispensary where out-patients are attended to.

PRESIDENT.

One servant is also attached to the Dispensary. A new nurse and servant are wanted.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

Well, in my opinion, as I said in the budget session, the Hospital is swelling. Its superior and inferior staff are increasing day by day, and there was a promise made by the Government that a Retrenchment Committee will be appointed, and I was anxiously waiting to see when that Committee will come to work. As it stands, the staff is already in excess of what is required, and an additional nurse and servant to the newly opened block are unnecessary at this time. That is my view. I place it before the Council that the department can more or less anticipate the opening of this just a few months after the budget was framed. This could have been shown in the budget itself. It was only a question of 2 months. Nothing was mentioned even during that time when there was a cry that the staff was in excess of what is required. The introduction of the present supplementary grant is, in my opinion, not to be recommended and cannot be granted. If a new Operation Room is constructed, a staff need not be attached to that.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

PRESIDENT.

An additional Operation Theatre is not necessary ?

Dr. A. G. MENON.

The original Operation Room was constructed on some principle. Only the staff will be transferred from one to the other. If the original room is not fit, it may be closed. No operation need be conducted in it. If it is not fit, there is no necessity for having it.

PRESIDENT.

Is there not a difference between septic and anti-septic cases?

Dr. A. G. MENON.

In certain cases the wound might become septic after operations. The difference is only in treatment.

PRESIDENT.

Is it not better that we should have two separate theatres for the two kinds of cases ?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

During our student-days it was so. Dr. A. G. Menon will see that, now, in modern hospitals, they have separate hospitals for septic and anti-septic cases. Separate ones are necessary to produce good results, though it involves great expenditure. We were far behind some ten years back.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

The Hon'ble Member will understand that I am also in touch with my subject, and I am also keeping with the advancement of my science. In the General Hospital in Madras, many septic cases are brought from a long distance, and they are naturally first put into septic wards. They are put in isolated wards, and after a certain period they are transferred to the main wards. The operations are not performed even in the main building, but only in isolated sheds. That is the general practice.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Nothing is done in the sheds. There will be no operation in Madras in sheds.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

Whether it is in the sheds or in the main building, in my opinion, I don't think that this is necessary. The demand made is superfluous.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL.

Sir, although I cannot claim any expert knowledge in this matter, I feel constrained to say that the demand under these

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

two items made by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer is perfectly legitimate and reasonable. It has been the privilege of eminent doctors to disagree, and I, for one, would not venture to opine whether septic and anti-septic cases could be operated upon in the same Operation Room. I am not for destroying the old building. Let the old building remain there. An inspection of the General Hospital would certainly have convinced Hon'ble Members of the good work done there, and the justice of the present demand. Patients are daily on the increase. The Chief Medical Officer says that an extra nurse and an extra servant are absolutely necessary. From personal experience, from what I have been able to gather from an inspection of some of the Hospitals of the State, I have come to the conclusion that menial servants and nurses are comparatively few, and their number has to be increased. In this respect, our Hospitals are not over-manned.

PRESIDENT.

Their pay also has to be increased, I suppose ?

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL.

Certainly. In these hard days it is undesirable policy to stint their salaries, to grudge the enhancement of the salaries of these menials and low-paid officers as also to object to a reasonable increase in their number. I, for one, would not have objected to the appointment of two servants and two nurses more. The work is so heavy. It seems to me that the Chief Medical Officer's demand is perfectly legitimate. I wholeheartedly support it.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Sir, I am opposed to supplementary grants. It is only at the last sitting that we had a supplementary grant moved in this House. And the other day we heard that an expenditure was already incurred, and it was only to be sanctioned. So, on principle, all supplementary grants should be viewed with very great disfavour by the House. But in this particular case we have to see the necessity and to decide. Here, in the General Hospital, I have had the privilege of being very near and inside it also. (*Laughter.*) There are two theatres, and operations are going on simultaneously in both the theatres at times. So, it would be impossible for one servant to attend to both the theatres at one and the same time. That necessitates the appointment of one man in each of the theatres. The Ophthalmic Hospital was before a Dispensary. Now, they have got an actual block of buildings in which in-patients are entertained. They are blind-folded after

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

operation and for the time-being, they have to be treated after operations carefully. A nurse is an absolute necessity there. Therefore, as I am convinced of the necessity of these two demands, I whole-heartedly support it.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

May I know, Sir, how many servants there are in the General Hospital?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

I do not think I could be exact.

PRESIDENT.

But still the approximate number may be given. It may be about 40. They were all arrayed before me the other day, and somebody was backing them up. They wanted an increase of pay. I think they were about 40.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

And the regular ward attendants?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Five males and five females.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

And the number of patients?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Daily average of 160 to 170 in-patients.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

Cannot an adjustment be made from the servants who are already in the Hospital?

PRESIDENT.

The point is whether you cannot, out of the number you have already got, keep one for this and reduce the strength by one there.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

I have to tell the House exactly the state of affairs. I have to differ from my Hon'ble friend by saying that he does not know the details of the work in the General Hospital. He cannot realise it. One set of patients are all accommodated in a large hall in separate blocks here and there. They want adequate attendance, if you claim to look after them properly. I do not think the House will be grudging to give an adequate number of servants to Hospitals. The necessity of the case may be carefully enquired into by the House, and I am sure that sanction will be made. You cannot grudge the employment of servants in a place where some 200 patients are looked after,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

all in separate blocks without any relations or any one else to look after them. You cannot continue with a few servants. I would appeal to the humane sentiments of the House to examine the question carefully, before arriving at the conclusion that they are not wanted or that they are superfluous. I would invite the House to come round and see the Hospital including the Hon'ble medical member here.

PRESIDENT.

What he said was that he was in the actual working of the case and had personal experience.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

I have taken great care to study the facts, and that is the reason why I expressed my opinion.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

I am managing a hospital with nearly 200 patients.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

I shall take the earliest opportunity for visiting the Hospital.

The demand was put to votes and carried.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar's Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill.

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Ikkanda Wariar will introduce his Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. E. IKKANDA WARIAR.

I do not wish to introduce the Bill now. I want to move it only in the next meeting.

PRESIDENT.

Only in the next meeting?

Mr. E. IKKANDA WARIAR.

Yes, Sir, in the next meeting.

PRESIDENT.

It may be so done.

Rosolutions on matters of General Public Interest.

PRESIDENT.

We shall continue the discussion of the resolution moved by Mr. K. T. Mathew.

Free Compulsory Primary Education among the Depressed Classes.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly